INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

SECRET

NNNNVV EHE610HPA686
PP RUEHC RUEKDA RUCJHK RUQMBE RUQMKG RUQVRA RUQMVL RUFHDN
DE RUFHPA 351 3420920
ZNY SSSSS
P 080845Z
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3203
INFO RUQMBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 42
RUQMKG/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 47
RUQVRA/AMEMBASSY JIDDA 14
RUQMVL/AMEMBASSY TELAVIV 51
RUFHDN/AMEMBASSY LONDON 534
RUEKDA/DOD WASHDC
RUCJHK/CINCSTRIKE
RUCJHK/CINCMEAFSA
STATE GRNC
BT
S E C R E T DEC 8

DEFENSE FOR OASD/ISA
CINCSTRIKE FOR POLAD
CINCMEAFSA FOR POLAD

SUPERSONICS.

EMBTELS 3065, 29966 AND 2803

QUAI-S [redacted] CALLED IN EMBOFF DEC 6
TO CONVEY FOLLOWING:

1. JORDAN: GOF WOULD APPRECIATE STATUS REPORT RE JORDANIAN SUPERSONICS SITUATION.

A. JORDANIAN AUTHORITIES HAD SPOKEN TO FRENCH IN AMMAN AS

PAGE TWO RUFHPA 351 S E C R E T
FOLLOWS: ALTHOUGH UAC'S FIRST TWO PAYMENTS UNDER LATTER'S TEN-YEAR ARMS FINANCING COMMITMENT TO JORDAN HAD BEEN RECIEVED, FUTURE INSTALLMENTS OBVIOUSLY QUESTION MARK. IN VIEW THIS SITUATIO COST FRENCH AIRCRAFT AND JORDANIAN GOVT'S DESIRE NOT TO MISLEAD GOF, AMMAN GOVT WISHED EXPLORE CURRENT STATUS "PROMISES OF GUARANTEE OFFERED BY MR. PHILLIPS TALBOT LAST FEBRUARY." GENERAL KHAMMASH HOPING PROCEED TO WASHINGTON FOR THIS PURPOSE (CF AMMAN'S 322 TO DEPT).

SECRET

B. [redacted] EMBOFF, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, NOTED (1) HE UNAWARE ANY CHANGE IN US GOVT'S NEGATIVE POSITION ON SUBSIDY FOR JORDANIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT; (2) AS QUAI KNEW, USG IN ORDER KEEP OUT MIGS HAD BEEN RESPONSIVE TO BRITISH IDEA POSSIBLE USE HAWKS TO BRING COST OF PACKAGE DOWN (DEPTEL 2338); BUT (3) THAT CONTINUING IMPASSE OVER PRICE 36 AIRCRAFT RAISED QUESTION WHETHER JORDAN SHOULD NOT SEEK ADDITIONAL UAC FINANCING OR AGREEMENT LOWER SIGHTS ON NUMBER AIRCRAFT TO BE ACQUIRED (DEPTEL 2356). EMBOFF UNDERTOOK TRANSMIT QUAI'S QUERY URGENTLY TO DEPT.

2. LEBANON: LEBANESE MISSION (EMBTEL 2966) HAD REACHED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH FRENCH TO PLACE FIRM ORDER FOR 6 MIRAGE

PAGE THREE RUFHPA 351 S E C R E T

AIRCRAFT WITH OPTION OF 8 ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT WHICH MAY BE EXERCISED SUBSEQUENTLY.

3. ISRAEL: NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

4. SAUDI ARABIA: SAUDIS HAD APPROACHED FRENCH TO MANIFEST RENEWED INTEREST IN MIRAGES EVEN IF TERMS STEEPER THAN TOSE OFFERED BY US AND UK GOVTS FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE AIRPLANES. FRENCH HAD CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THIS APPROACH BUT HAD CONCLUDED THAT (A) IT WAS TACTIC DESIGNED PUT PRESSURE ON US AND UK; (B) THAT IT NOT IN FRENCH INTEREST, PARTICULARLY VIEW US ATTITUDE IN JORDAN AND LEBANON, TO CREASTE FURTHER DIFFICULTIES BY RESPONDING TO THIS TYPE SAUDI OVERTURE, ALTHOUGH GOF OF COURSE NOT PREPARED PULL OUT OF COMPETITION FOR SAUDI ORDER ALTOGETHER.

5. COMMENT: [redacted] CLEAR IMPRESSION FRENCH INTEREST IN COMPLETING MIRAGE TRANSACTION WITH JORDANIAN AND LEBANESE GOVTS. TENOR OF APPROACH SUGGESTS IMPROVED FRENCH UNDERSTANDING OF US POSTURE ON HAWKS HAS HELPED EASE STRAIN EVIDENT IN CONVERSATION CONVEYED OUR 2803. FACT AVAILABILITY HAWKS APPARENTLY FAILED ALTER LEBANESE AND JORDANIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS MIRAGES PROBABLY SIGNIFICANT AS WELL. REMARKS ON SAUDI ARABIA COULD WELL REFLECT GOF ASSESSMENT FRENCH UNLIKELY SUCCEED IN SELLING SAUDIS MIRAGE IN LIGHT CURRENT ANGLO-AMERICAN OFFERS, SCOPE US AND UK AREA

EVOICE

PAGE FOUR RUFHPA 315 S E C R E T

INTERESTS, AND BREADTH RESULTING "ANGLO-SAXON" RELATIONSHIP WITH SAUDI GOVT. ATTEMPT EXPLOIT SITUATION TO STRENGTHEN CREDIT WITH US FOR PURPOSE ADVANCING RELATED FRENCH INTERESTS IN LEVANT (WHICH IMPLICIT IN PRESENTATION) WOULD THUS BE BEST USE TO BE MADE OF SAUDI NIBBLE. NONETHELESS, FRENCH REFUSAL PLAY SAUDI GAME SEEMS HELPFUL.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY RECOMMENDS IT BE SUPPLIED APPROPRIATE JORDANIAN SITREP SOONEST FOR USE WITH QUAI.

7. PROTECT SOURCE.

GP-1. MCBRIDE

BT

NOTE: HANDLED LIMDIS PER SIS-O.